

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (New): A method of enhancing the production of nitric oxide in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to said subject in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, and a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative.

Claim 10 (New): The method according to claim 9, wherein said composition further comprises arginine.

Claim 11 (New): The method according to claim 9, wherein said arginine is selected from the group consisting of L-arginine and D-arginine, or a mixture thereof.

Claim 12 (New): The method according to claim 9, wherein said composition further comprises at least one medicine or cosmetic.

Claim 13 (New): The method according to claim 12, wherein said composition has an activity selected from the group consisting of a vasodilator, a blood-flow improver, an antiplatelet-aggregating agent, an antibacterial compound, an anticancer compound, a digestive tract absorption accelerant, renal function regulator, a neurotransmitter, an erectile dysfunction improver, a learning promoter, and an appetite enhancer.

Claim 14 (New): The method according to claim 9, wherein said composition is a cosmetic composition and the content of said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, or pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative ranges from 0.01 to 20% by weight.

Claim 15 (New): The method according to claim 14, wherein said cosmetic composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment.

Claim 16 (New): The method according to claim 9, wherein said composition is a pharmaceutical composition and the content of said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, or pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative ranges from 0.01 to 20% by weight.

Claim 17 (New): The method according to claim 16, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a form of a liquid, a granule, a powder, a capsule, a tablet, a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment..

Claim 18 (New): The method according to claim 16, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an oil, a fat, a wax, a hydrocarbon, an aliphatic acid, a lower alcohol, a higher alcohol, a polyhydric alcohol, an ester, a surfactant, and a water soluble polymer, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 19 (New): The method according to claim 16, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of a dermal cell activator, an antiinflammatory agent, an active oxygen eraser, a moisturizing agent, a W absorber, an antiseptic, an antimold agent, and a perfume, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 20 (New): A method of enhancing the production nitric oxide synthase in a living body in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to said subject in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, and a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative.

Claim 21 (New): The method according to claim 20, wherein said composition further comprises arginine.

Claim 22 (New): The method according to claim 20, wherein said arginine is selected from the group consisting of L-arginine and D-arginine, or a mixture thereof.

Claim 23 (New): The method according to claim 20, wherein said composition further comprises at least one medicine or cosmetic.

Claim 24 (New): The method according to claim 23, wherein said composition has an activity selected from the group consisting of a vasodilator, a blood-flow improver, an antiplatelet-aggregating agent, an antibacterial compound, an anticancer compound, a

digestive tract absorption accelerant, renal function regulator, a neurotransmitter, an erectile dysfunction improver, a learning promoter, and an appetite enhancer.

Claim 25 (New): The method according to claim 20, wherein said composition is a cosmetic composition and the content of said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, or pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative ranges from 0.01 to 20% by weight.

Claim 26 (New): The method according to claim 25, wherein said cosmetic composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment.

Claim 27 (New): The method according to claim 20, wherein said composition is a pharmaceutical composition and the content of said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, or pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative ranges from 0.01 to 20% by weight.

Claim 28 (New): The method according to claim 27, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a form of a liquid, a granule, a powder, a capsule, a tablet, a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment..

Claim 29 (New): The method according to claim 27, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an

oil, a fat, a wax, a hydrocarbon, an aliphatic acid, a lower alcohol, a higher alcohol, a polyhydric alcohol, an ester, a surfactant, and a water soluble polymer, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 30 (New): The method according to claim 27, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of a dermal cell activator, an antiinflammatory agent, an active oxygen eraser, a moisturizing agent, a W absorber, an antiseptic, an antimold agent, and a perfume, or mixtures thereof.